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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/956,973	09/21/2001	Yasurou Matsuzaki	100353-00079	5655

7590

02/26/2003

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EXAMINER

TRAN, LONG K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/956,973

Applicant(s)

MATSUZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Long K. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- a) Species **I**, e.g. embodiment 1: Fig. 13;
- b) Species **II**, e.g. embodiment 2: Fig. 16;
- c) Species **III**, e.g. embodiment 3: Fig. 17;
- d) Species **IV**, e.g. embodiment 4: Fig. 18;
- e) Species **V**, e.g. embodiment 5: Fig. 19;
- f) Species **VI**, e.g. embodiment 6: Fig. 21;
- g) Species **VII**, e.g. embodiment 7: Fig. 22;
- f) Species **VIII**, e.g. embodiment 8: Fig. 23;
- h) Species **IX**, e.g. embodiment 9: Fig. 25;
- i) Species **X**, e.g. embodiment 10: Fig. 27;
- j) Species **XI**, e.g. embodiment 11: Fig. 28;
- k) Species **XII**, e.g. embodiment 12: Fig. 29;
- l) Species **XIII**, e.g. embodiment 13: Fig. 31;
- m) Species **XIV**, e.g. embodiment 13: Fig. 32;
- n) Species **XV**, e.g. embodiment 15: Figs. 34A and 34B;
- o) Species **XVI**, e.g. embodiment 16: Fig. 36.

2. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic

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claims is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

3. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141. If claims are added after the selection, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. 809.02(a). Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patent-able distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions un-patent-able over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 of the other invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventor-ship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one

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claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventor-ship must be accompanied by a diligently-filled petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(h).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Long K. Tran whose telephone number is 703-305-5482. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 703-308-4910. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7466 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3329.

Long Tran

February 13, 2003


HOAI HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER